



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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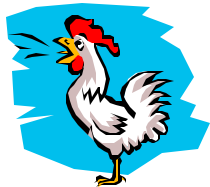
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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Majority prices were irregular, but mostly trending, unchanged for next week. Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady in the Midwest, irregular in the Northeast depending on sizes, and steady elsewhere. Demand was slow to moderate, mostly fair at best. Supplies were adequate to ample with heavier sizes adequate to tight in the Northeast. In the parts structure, thighs were balanced to short with good demand, and all other items were at least sufficient with light to fair movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to light, mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 03/27-04/01/00 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A			COMPOSITE	
(Including branded product)			WTD	
AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	AVG	LOADS
Bos/New Eng	TFEWR	—		
Chicago	42.00-45.00	35.00-59.75	45.61	23
Cincinnati	TFEWR	—		
Cleveland	TFEWR	—		
Denver	61.50	—		
Detroit	TFEWR	—		
Los Angeles	62.00	—		
New York	48.00-51.00	—		
Philadelphia	TFEWR	—		
Pittsburgh	TFEWR	—		
St. Louis	TFEWR	—		
San Francisco	62.50	—		
Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent				
Mississippi	55.00-57.00	41.50-57.50	56.69	83

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 57.25 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
581	52.75-59.00	57.10
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
ITEM	WTD. AVG.	VOLUME
	(CENTS PER POUND)	(000 POUNDS)
BREASTS - B/S	142.50	3,860
BREASTS - WHOLE	72.50	1,710
THIGH MEAT - B/S	77.00	596
LEG QUARTERS	19.00	7,575
WINGS	57.50	2,598

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trade sentiment was steady. Demand was light to fair with little trading. Supplies were more than sufficient to handle trade needs. In the parts structure, thighs and thigh meat were in the shortest positions with fairly good movement. All other items were adequate to ample and increasing in availability with light trading. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Preliminary majority prices were unchanged from last Friday's levels. Offerings adequate overall. Buyer needs selective and limited to regular commitments. Retail demand was light to moderate for whole body and moderate to fairly good for parts. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances. Reported trading on parts for delivery into California: leg quarters bulk 18-21 and 4/10's 20.5-22, breasts bone-in 72-76 and boneless 140-143.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS The preliminary majority price for next week's trading was unchanged into Chicago. Prices into Detroit, St. Louis, Cleveland and Cincinnati were too few to report. Retail demand was mixed, overall noted as fair at best. Food service movement was light to moderate. Floor stocks were adequate to instances ample in Chicago. Sizes desirable. Parts demand was light with increased offerings noted. Trade sentiment steady on leg quarters and bone in breast, barely steady to weak on wings and boneless skinless breasts.

NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light to fair at best. Offerings continued to vary in size. Smaller birds were ample and the heavier sizes were tight to adequate. Retail and distributive movement was slow to moderate. The market tone was at least fully steady on the larger birds and barely steady at best on the lighter weights. In the parts market, offerings continued at least sufficient for current demand except thighs were short to adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally noted as fair entering the last weekend of the month. Offerings were adequate and in fairly good balance on the over 3 pound sizes; readily available and slow to clear on the lighter weights. Live supplies were about moderate; weights were mostly desirable to light. Processing schedules were moderate to moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 51 to 63 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, thighs were in close balance to short of a good call. Other items were more than adequate for the light and selective buyer.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A		
RANGE		48-63
WEIGHTED AVERAGE		54.57
NO. OF BOXES		7,835
CUMULATIVE	03/20/00-03/24/00	53.49
	03/22/99-03/26/99	53.43
NO. OF BOXES	03/20/00-03/24/00	38,353
	03/22/99-03/26/99	37,552

*6 of 8 plants reporting.

"Effective March 31, preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook ice-packed broiler/fryers delivered to first receivers in Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, St. Louis, Denver, and San Francisco will no longer be published on Friday. Friday preliminary prices for New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles will continue to be available. Prices for all 12 cities will continue to be published every Monday."

MAR 23, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAR 24, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS		MAJORITY	WTD AVG	WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE			(000)	RANGE			(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	609	127.00-187.00	130-135	134.88	683	125.00-187.00	128-135	134.74	3,101	134.10
TENDERLOINS	59	126.00-185.00	126-130	146.69	149	128.00-185.00	128-130	135.54	617	145.20
BREAST - LINE RUN	99	69.00-73.00	69-70	69.32	114	69.00-73.00	69-70	69.28	704	70.23
FRONT HALVES	45	59.00-66.00	-	64.44	70	66.00-69.00	-	67.50	369	66.21
LEGS	52	25.50-33.00	25.5-26	27.23	TOO FEW TO REPORT				207	26.91
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	459	15.00-18.00	15-16	15.58	587	14.00-18.00	14-15	14.63	2,657	15.43
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,146	16.50-20.00	19-20	18.99	1,116	15.50-20.00	18-20	18.78	5,766	18.95
WINGS (WHOLE)	105	51.00-57.00	51-53	55.94	103	54.00-57.00	54-55	55.98	590	55.18
WINGS (CUT)	447	68.00-77.00	-	70.21	434	61.00-77.00	67-68	67.60	2,237	67.69
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				91	33.00
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				73	25.87
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				50	66.76

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS*****
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR MAR 23, 2000 F.O.B. DOCK.

TRADING FOR MAR 24, 2000 F.O.B. DOCK.

**TODAY'S
AVERAGE****RANGE****TODAY'S
AVERAGE****5-DAY
AVERAGE**

37.00 - 42.00

40.01

40.00 - 43.50

41.07

40.72

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity was most often described as decent heading into the weekend and buyers continued to cautiously monitor inventories. Offerings were usually more than adequate except thighs were tight to adequate. Movement into retail and distributive outlets was light to fair at best and no significant improvement was expected for the last week of the month. The market tone was fully steady on thighs and barely steady at best on the balance.

PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG		WTD	VOL/LBS	CURRENT NEG		WTD	VOL/LBS	WEEKLY	
	TRADING*	AVG**			TRADING*	AVG**			WTD AVG	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130-135	135.53	519,440		130-135	140.72	479,760		138.792	145,480
TENDERLOINS	125-130	127.88	80,800		125-130	130.63	105,480		129.78	392,640
BREAST - WITH RIBS	63-64	71.53	234,040		63-64	72.76	223,800		72.30	974,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	63	67.61	207,000		63	66.90	122,200		67.08	876,960
LEGS	26-27	31.77	179,800		26-27	31.40	208,080		31.17	985,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.38	412,092		16-17	18.63	416,432		18.431	1,754,070
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	31.87	93,760		34-35	32.80	109,380		31.48	572,000
THIGHS	24-25	30.38	59,800		25-26	30.68	68,370		30.46	288,580
B/S THIGHS	73-74	75.50	35,640		74-75	78.12	46,360		75.96	173,880
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	60.95	177,240		50-51	60.81	221,240		60.161	1,001,320
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.11	41,440		10-12	12.04	48,600		12.02	207,120
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	33.43	27,320		30-35	34.49	34,640		34.05	149,500
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	50-55	54.46	60,440		55-60	54.46	72,640		56.06	310,780

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL WTS	
	03/24	03/23	03/22	03/21	03/22	03/21	03/17	03/15
ALA	3,860	3,913	3,907	3,951	4.97	5.05	3,361	4.99
ARK	5,025	5,250	5,160	5,106	4.88	4.88	4,871	4.88
DELMARVA	2,270	2,388	2,289	2,412	5.07	5.10	2,264	5.02
KY-LA-TN	1,969	2,024	2,004	1,868	4.33	4.42	1,907	4.44
MISS	2,237	2,695	2,292	2,502	5.09	5.08	2,690	5.10
NC	2,661	2,585	2,507	2,330	5.74	6.01	2,501	5.67
TEXAS	2,270	2,294	2,147	2,277	4.87	4.85	2,243	4.90
TOTAL	20,292	21,149	20,306	20,446	4.99	5.04	19,837	5.00
MON-FRI	102,850(A)						101,558(A)	

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 24-Mar and 25-Mar-00 is estimated to be 30,359,000 up 1.99 percent from a week ago and down 5.2 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,767,000; last year 32,008,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the week ending 25-Mar-00 is estimated to be 155,846,000 head up 5.1 percent from a week ago, and up 5.2 percent from a year ago (Last week 148,354,000 Last year 148,122,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROCESSED POULTRY,**DELIVERED TO RETAILERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA)**

FRESH FRYERS	76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP	75-90
HENS UNDER 5# HENS OVER 5#	79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY**DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS**

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104-108
	ICE PACK	92-96
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	95
	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS		149-166

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live weight, week ending Mar 11, 2000 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up
-----THOUSANDS-----

Head	32,568	35,603	36,977
Avg Weight	3.79	4.84	6.15
% of total /1	31%	34%	35%
COMPARISONS			
Last week	36,065	36,754	34,944
Avg Weight	3.84	4.86	6.21
% of total /1	33%	34%	32%
Same week, yr ago /2	33,091	30,617	37,531
Avg Weight	3.87	4.95	6.22
% of total /1	33%	30%	37%
To date/2000	339,160	303,277	399,190
To date/1999	335,900	312,761	426,844

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.

/2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 18-Mar-2000 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
HEAD	148,354 (A)	1,971	1,448	3,419	476
AVG WT	5.11	3.42	7.82	5.29	6.59
LAST WEEK	155,100	2,109	1,513	3,622	411
YR AGO	148,775	2,125	1,381	3,506	435
AVG WT	5.06	3.44	7.76	5.14	6.83
TO-DATE/2000	1,686,888	22,335	14,972	37,307	5,047
TO-DATE/1999	1,652,796	23,708	14,555	38,263	5,129

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 153.3 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 150.2 million head or 3.1 million head less than or 98 percent of estimated fryers available.

EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY - DATE OF AUCTION: MAR 21, 2000

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.60 - .66	Silkies	2.75 - 3.75ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.60 - .70	Geese 9-14	.30 - .42
Red Fowl 4-4.5	.40 - .54	Pigeons	2.75 - 3.60ea.
Red Fowl 5-6	.50 - .82	White Pigeons	3.10 - 3.35ea.
Crossbred Fowl 5-9	.50 - .92	Rabbits 4-6	1.10 - 1.32
Crossbred Roosters 4-6	.60 - .92	Rabbits 7-11	1.00 - 1.22
Crossbred Roosters 7-11	.60 - .94	Bunnies	2.50 - 8.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.10 - 1.55	Guinea Pigs	3.00 - 7.25ea.
Banty Roosters	2.50 - 5.50ea.	Kid Goats	21.00 - 27.00ea.
Banty Hens	2.50 - 3.50ea.	Doves	3.00 - 4.50ea.
Leghorn Hens	.08 - .16	Pullets 4-6	.60 - .74
Leghorn Roosters	.30 - .44		

Total Coops Sold 705

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FED-STATE for THE WEEK OF 03-Mar-00
DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137	143
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	121-125	122-126
MOSTLY	121-123	122-124

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	57-60	59-60
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	71-83	71-75

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA,RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices were unchanged. The trade sentiment was steady. Demand was moderate to fairly good. Sizes were normal to at times light and schedules were full-time. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.65-5.25, legs at \$2.80-2.95, bone in leg at \$1.15-1.70, gizzards at \$1.30-1.40, wings at \$0.40-0.60, and leg quarters at \$1.08-1.15.

PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 20-MAR-2000

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	117-119	118
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
FEBRUARY 12	157.9	152.1	104	4.87
19	157.1	152.5	103	5.10
26	154.1	152.7	101	4.97
MARCH 4	156.8	153.3	102	5.20
11	157.0	153.8	102	4.89
18	150.2	153.3	98	5.11
YEAR TO DATE	1707.5	1665.2	103	
MARCH 25		153.4		
APRIL 1		152.9		

CALIFORNIA PLTRY SLTR UNDER FED. INSP W/E 18-Mar-00

IN THOUSANDS

Broilers 2,811 HD, 14,196 lbs., Light Hens 201 HD, 651 lbs., Heavy Hens 0 HD, 0 lbs.

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

	-----THOUSANDS-----				
W/E	03/25/00	03/18/00	% CHG	03/26/99	% CHG
Broilers	155,846	*148,354	+05	*148,122	+05
Cattle	688	675	+02	*649	+06
Hogs	1,863	1,903	-02	*1,953	-05

Under Federal Inspection

* ACTUAL

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL Majority prices usually trended unchanged to slightly lower than a week earlier. Trading of heavy canners was of moderate volume, light canners was generally limited to fair volume. Demand was moderate but unaggressive for offerings that ranged from well cleared to spot availability. The undertone was about steady to steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) 25-27 MAJORITY	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS) 33.5-37.5 MAJORITY 35.5-36.5
CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED	

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS) 26-28.5 MAJORITY 26-27	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS) 33.5-39.5 MAJORITY 38-39.5
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EASTERN LIGHT Prices were unchanged. Demand was fair for usually adequate but reduced offerings. Processing schedules were reported as normal. Undertone was steady.

SOUTHEAST HEAVY HENS Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate for adequate offerings. Processing schedules were normal. Undertone was about steady to steady.

LIVE HENS

Cents per pound, generally for slaughter the following week.

<u>HEAVY</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR (1)	
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR (2)	
f.o.b. plant	TFEWR	
South Central Heavy	TFEWR (1)	
<u>LIGHT</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>
Eastern Light	0 (1)	
Eastern Light	0 (2)	
So. Central Light	TFEWR (2)	
No. Central Light	TFEWR (1)	
No. Central Light	0-.5 (2)	0
(1) Buyer Loading	(2) Producer Loading	

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

WEST COAST LIGHT Plant schedules light to moderate. Offerings irregular.

NORTH CENTRAL LIVE LIGHT HEN Prices unchanged. Demand was usually light for the at least adequate to mostly ample offerings. Schedules full-time or better. Trade sentiment about steady.

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